West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject County Government. Date II/8/41

Research Worker Samuel G.Smith. Date Research Taken II/5,6,7/41

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COUNTY% Government.Samuel G.Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.

Pocahontas County from the very beginning has been noted for its tile soil,its healthy climate and its good county government therefore many outside people have migrated here,some for their health others seeking to establish a home while others came for employment and so in 1847 many people from outside the western waters began to come in and among them were Cornelius and Nicholas Stulting and John Vanreman who were born in Utrich one of the states of Holland,they all came to the United States in 1847 and were born in Holland in 1790,1821 and 1804 respectively,locating in Pocahontas County in 1847 and at the same time became citizens after first being passed upon by the court of our county,these men brought with them the many ways and doings of their father country and after settling within our borders taught the settlers to be thrifty and energetic citizens.

In 1852 William J Wooddell was elected Sheriff of the county with Allen C.Burner and John A.Holden as his deputies this was for a two year term Thomas Hill was again selected as commissioner of the revinue for another term.Thomas A.Bradford was elected attorney for the commonwealth by this court for a four year term beginning July 1.1852.William Skeen was elected Clerk of the County Court for a term of 6 years starting July 1.1852.About this time the rate of pay on the county roads was raised to 75 cts per day. and so the county [illegible] higher as it was 1006.26 to be collected

1037 tithables.At this time the court decided best to classify the Justices that were to hold court for November 1852 and they were Justices Buckley, Mclaughlin and Burner class # 2 was to be held by Hill, Baxter,and Gamon for March term 1853.Class # 3 was to be held by Hudson,Rhea, and Gay June term 1853.# 4 Wanless,Bruffey and Gilliland for August term 1853.# 5 held by Justices Warwick, Lockridge and Kerr for the November term 1853 .

The only place for crazy people at that time was at the lunatic Assylum located at Staunton Virginia and so any one that went crazy on this side of the Alleghany Mountain was sent by the court of Pocahontas County to this institution for treatment.Henry M Moffett who had served as Clerk of the court for many years died about 1851,he having accumulated quite a fortune at that time and his son had to give bond to the amount of 40.000.00 to settle the estate.

In 1852 the county was districted and the following men served on the districting board George Edmiston 6 days at 2.00 total 1200 , Wm.Cochran 6 days or 12.00,Hugh Mclaughlin 3 days or 6.00 and Solomon Arbogast 2 days or 4.00 or a total of 34.00 paid these men for their services in districting the county.Pocahontas County has many streams and it was about this time that the court had a majority of these streams bridged,this was all authorized by the court and paid by the Sheriff of the Co-

.It was unlawful for a free negro to run at large without proper reg-

stration furnished by the court.

William Curry is chosen deputy clerk for William Skeen.Patrick Br-

uffey one of the pioneers in our county government died and his son Wil-

liam was chosen to fill the vacancy as justice for district # 4.A list of

delinquent land taxes for I852 amounting to $ 79.I7,personal property 6.4

and capitation tax delinquincies of $ I8.25.

Court records show the men serving on the court ~~and~~ that inspected ~~insp~~

~~ected~~ the records from July.I.I852 to August.I I853.Paul McNeel attended

court I7 settings at $ 3.00 a setting or a total of $ 5I.00

George Burner attended 4 days $ I2.00.Patrick Bruffey 4 days I2.00.David

W.Kerr 6 days I8.00.Elijah Hudson 6 days I8.00.William T.Gammon 6 days

I8.00. James T.Lockridge 4 days I2.00.William Baxter 7 days 2I.00Josiah

Buckley 4 days I2.00.Levi Wanless 8 days 24.00.John W.Warwick 4 days I2.

00.Michael B.Gilliland 5 days I5.00.Archibald Rhea 4 days I2.00.John Gay

7 days 2I.00.Abraham Hill 4 days I2.00.Hugh McLaughlin 9 days 27.00.

William B.Bruffey I day 3.00 or a total of I00 days and 300.00.

By an order of the court a grandjury shall be chosen for terms of

court June and November and the number to be drawn was to be I6.At a cen-

sus taken in Pocahontas County in I850 it was found that we had a popul-

ation of 3,000 white people and from this was chosen 60 persons that were

bitants of the county and duly Qualified to act as jurymen as requ-
ed by an act of the General Assembley.The county levy was layed for
1853 with the bounty on Red Foxes at 1.00 Grays 50 cts,Black Bear 1.00
and Wild Cats 1.00 the amount of the levy was $ 1,118.34.At the July
term 1854 the levy was for $ 1,809.50 The levy for 1855 was for $ 2,419.
much of which was spent in surveying and establishing the county lines.The
levy of 1856 was for $2,650,30 this was to be collected from all males 16
years or older this included all colored people over 16 also.The levy for
1857 was $ 2,377.99 and the one for 1858 was for $ 2400.00.

About 1853 it was decided by the court that it was advisable to buy a poor farm to be used to care for the less fortunate and a committee was appointed by the court to select a farm for not less than $ 2,000.00 nor more than $ 3,000.00 those appointed to serve were William J.Wooddell,John Gay, Daniel McLaughlin and George M.G Eddiston these gentlemen were to make a survey and report back to the court at a later date.

William J.Wooddell was again chosen Sheriff of Pocahontas County with Isaac McNeel,John S.Wooddell and James F.Holden as his deputies and the following term of sheriff was held by John S,Wooddell as William J.Wooddell had resigned as Sheriff.Johns deputies were James Holden and Amos Barlow.For the year of 1856 it cost the county $ 655.00 to care for the

oor of the county.Among the many duties of the overseers of the poor was to bind out dependant children in good homes and if possible te- ach them a trade like tanning,saddelry and any other trade they might be able to take up.until they were 21 years of age.

It was in the year of 1854 that the first books were bought to register births,deaths and marriages in this custom still prevails in the county and in 1856 they recorded 160 births, and 24 deaths,this work was performed by the commissioner of the revinue but was over and above his regular duties and for 1856 he received $ 5.02 for his serv- ices for which he received $ 200.00 .James E.Moore was chosen commiss- ioner of revinue July 1858. John Waugh serving the term before Moore

Delinquent land tax for 1854 was $ 154.90 and the time spent by the court was 57 days.At this time grandjurymen were paid 1.00 a day and petit jurors paid .50 a day .It was in April 1856 that the sheriff order- ed poll books to be used for the first time in the presidential election.

Thomas Hill was elected Assessor March 10.1865 with William T.Gam- mon as his assistant.At that time it required about 45 days to assess the county with one helper or deputy.During these days they had toll gates and most of them were on the Lewisburg-Marlins-Bottom Road,to have a toll gate required a toll house and often a site had to be condemned by the court to erect the building.The cost of the county court for the year of

amounted to $ 195.00.and the amount spent by the court for jurors both
ndjurymen and Petit-jurors amounted to $ 64.00.At June court 1858 Thomas
ll was chosen Coroner for the county and Sherman Clark was chosen Surveyor
for the county for a six year term with George McNeel as deputy Surveyor.Wi-
lliam Curry was elected Clerk of the County Court for a 6 year term starting
January 1.1858.

Information- County Court Order Book # 4-5 and 6
Court House.Marlinton.W.Va.

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RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

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